

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 02565 021250Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W

-----129627 021256Z /47

P R 021220Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1156

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2565

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: HOVE CRISIS MAY BE OVER

REF: PRETORIA 2536

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) MET ON MAY 1 TO TRY TO RECONCILE THE POTENTIAL SPLIT DEVELOPING SINCE BLACK JUSTICE MINISTER BYRON HOVE WAS DISMISSED (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, SMITH HAS ASKED MUZOREWA NOT TO LEAVE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND PROMISED THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE TO STUDY HOVE'S RELEASE. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT YET ON MUZOREWA'S REACTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 02565 021250Z

2. THE OTHER TWO EC MEMBERS, MEANWHILE, HAVE CAST SOME DOUBT ON MUZOREWA'S REACTIONS TO THE HOVE DISMISSAL. BOTH SITHOLE AND CHIRAU CLAIM THAT MUZOREWA WAS AT ALL THE MEETINGS WHICH DISCUSSED HOVE'S CONDUCT. THE UANC HAD CLAIMED THE DISMISSAL WAS ILLEGAL BECAUSE MUZOREWA WAS NOT CONSULTED ON THE MOVE. MUZOREWA BACKTRACKED

ON THIS CLAIM SOMEWHAT AFTER SITHOLE AND CHIRAU'S ACCUSATIONS BY TELLING THE PRESS THAT HE HAD ATTENDED THE FRIDAY, APRIL 28, MEETING BUT NO DECISION WAS MADE ABOUT HOVE'S DISMISSAL UNTIL LATER. APPARENTLY IN THE FRIDAY MEETING HOVE WAS GIVEN AN ULTIMATUM OF RETRACTING HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS OR BEING FIRED.

3. ANOTHER PRESS ACCOUNT QUOTES TOP-LEVEL GOVERNMENT SOURCES WHO NOW SAY THE SPLIT HAS BEEN AVERTED AND THAT MUZOREWA IS "JUST PLAYING TO THE GALLERY." ANTHONY RYDER, OF THE RAND DAILY MAIL, WHO IS ONE OF THE BETTER CONNECTED LOCAL JOURNALISTS, OPINES THAT WHATEVER NOW OCCURS, A GREAT DEAL OF THE EC AND INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY HAS BEEN BLOWN AND CONFIDENCE LOST IN MUZOREWA AND THE OTHERS.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL, MUZOREWA HAS GOTTEN INTO A SITUATION THIS TIME THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET OUT OF. RYDER IS PROBABLY CORRECT THAT MUZOREWA WILL UNDERCUT HIS SUPPORTERS CONFIDENCE IN HIM IF HE GOES ALONG WITH A COMPROMISE SHORT OF HOVE'S REINSTATEMENT. OBVIOUSLY THE PRESSURES ARE GREAT FROM BOTH SIDES ON MUZOREWA. HE HAS COMPROMISED HIMSELF ON SEVERAL ISSUES IN THE PAST IN THE PROCESS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING ONE PERSONAL INSULT BY DAVID SMITH (PRETORIA 0569 AND 0599),
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 02565 021250Z

WHICH MEANS HE IS CAPABLE OF DOING IT AGAIN. IT ALSO MAY MEAN THAT MANY OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE EAGER AND READY FOR HIM TO FINALLY STAND FIRM. AS WE COMMENTED IN REFTEL, HIS ACTIONS HERE WILL INDICATE IF MUZOREWA IS STILL WILLING TO ACT AS AN INDIVIDUAL LEADER OR IF HE HAS ACQUIESCED COMPLETELY TO THE WILL OF THE SMITH DOMINATED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT GROUP. WHATEVER OCCURS VIS-A-VIS MUZOREWA PERSONALLY, RYDER IS AGAIN CORRECT IN THAT THE ENTIRE HOVE AFFAIR HAS CAST A SHADOW OF DOUBT OVER THE INDEPENDENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BLACK INTERNAL LEADERS.
NELSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, GOVERNMENT REFORM, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR02565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780186-0933
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805102/aaaadizj.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3932d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 2536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2517971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: HOVE CRISIS MAY BE OVER
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3932d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014